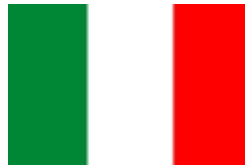


**Educational Program Designed For
Shepherd University - 114460G**



**"Exploring Shakespeare in Italy"
07 March 2013 - 17 March 2013**

Itinerary Overview

- DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON, DC
- DAY 2 ARRIVE ROME (3 NIGHTS)
- DAY 3 ROME (*CITY OF THE CAESARS*)
- DAY 4 ROME (*TREASURES OF CLASSICAL ITALY*)
- DAY 5 ROME - SIENA - FLORENCE (2 NIGHTS)
- DAY 6 FLORENCE (CRADLE OF THE RENAISSANCE)
- DAY 7 FLORENCE - BOLOGNA - PADUA (3 NIGHTS)
- DAY 8 VENICE (*LA SERENISSIMA*)
- DAY 9 VENICE (*SHAKESPEARE'S VENICE*)
- DAY 10 PADUA - VERONA - MILAN (1 NIGHT)
- DAY 11 DEPARTURE FROM MILAN

Casterbridge


LEARN TO TRAVEL • TRAVEL TO LEARN




"Exploring Shakespeare in Italy"

07 March 2013 - 17 March 2013

Italy - calls to people in a unique way. The rich and colorful culture melts into a warm atmosphere filled with light and life. Ancient traditions combine with a spiritual pride expressed in the art and food that epitomize what we have come to know as *La Bella Vita*. There is something about this country that stirs the soul as much as it educates the mind. From Roman ruins to the richness of the Renaissance, from the ruins of war to the peace of country life, experience the world in a new way in beautiful Italy.

Educational Tour or Visit = 

Recreational Activity = 

Cultural Experience = 

DAY 1



Thursday, 07 March 2013

Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from WASHINGTON, DC to Rome.

DAY 2


Friday, 08 March 2013

Our 24-hour Casterbridge Tour Manager/Guide will meet us at the airport and remain with us until our final airport departure.

For the next 3 evenings we will enjoy the convenience of our centrally-located Rome hotel, where daily breakfast will be included.




Known to many as the "Eternal City," Rome is the capital of Italy, with an uninterrupted history spanning two and a half thousand years. As one of the founding cities of western civilization, Rome is filled with incredible historical sites. It is a city with many faces, encompassing medieval, Renaissance, and modern. To define Rome is an impossible task, but to enjoy Rome is a wondrous experience.

 In Rome, the cost of public transport is included for all group sightseeing. Escorted by our guide, we will be able to experience the city in the same manner as the local people.

Walk through the **Piazza Largo Argentina**, where stand the five remaining temples of the Republican period.

 Visit **Area Sacra**, believed to be the site of Caesar's death.



 This evening we will dine in the **Piazza Navona** area. Built on the foundations of Domitian's Circus, this magnificent square was designed in the 17th century by Bernini. It is full of life and is highlighted by one of Rome's most spectacular fountains, the *Four Rivers*. The square is often filled with local artists. The surrounding neighborhood is also one of the best places in Rome to get a tasty tartufo or gelato ice cream.

DAY 3

Saturday, 09 March 2013

During the course of our tour we will gain from the knowledge and insight of 5 half-day local guides while we are here in Italy.



- Enjoy a **specialist-guided tour**, with **whisper sets**, through the spectacular remains of the Roman Empire, beginning at the **Colosseum**, considered to be the greatest symbol of Ancient Rome's power and glory. Completed under Titus in 80 A.D., the Colosseum could hold 55,000 spectators, on a par with many of today's modern sports stadiums. Among the sights included on our tour is the **Arch of Constantine**, a triumphal arch finished in 315 A.D., commemorating the victory of Constantine I over Maxentius in the year 312 A.D. We will also tour the ruins and excavations of the **Roman Forum**, which features the remains of magnificent temples, basilicas, and triumphal arches that once formed the heart of the Empire.



- Climb the long, sloping steps created by Michelangelo to **Piazza del Campidoglio**. Notice how it is a perfectly proportioned square highlighted by a bronze equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius in the center.



- Visit the **Capitoline Museums**, which house one of the greatest collections of classical sculpture in the world. Our visit includes the **Picture Gallery**, containing works from the 16th and 17th centuries by Caravaggio, Rubens, and Titian, among others.



- Enjoy a view of **Trajan's Column and Market**. Completed in 113 A.D. as a monument to the Emperor Trajan, the column is most famous for its spiral bas-relief. It stands in front of the market, the ancient equivalent of a shopping center, which housed no less than 150 shops and offices. From there, stroll past the **Victor Emmanuel Monument**, a giant building created to honor the first king of a unified Italy.



- Visit the **Pantheon**, one of the grandest and best-preserved Roman monuments, and the oldest large-scale dome in Rome. The Pantheon has been in continuous use throughout its history and today houses many tombs, including those of Italian kings Victor Emmanuel II and Umberto I, and painters Caracci and Raphael.

This evening dinner will be at the group's own expense.

DAY 4


Sunday, 10 March 2013



- Explore the different buildings that make up the **Museo Nazionale Romano**, including: the **Palazzo Massimo alle Terme**, featuring classical statues, frescoes, stuccoes, and mosaics discovered during 19th-century excavations; the **Palazzo Altemps**, a branch of the National Roman Museum housed in a 15th-century palace, which is the home of the famous Ludovisi Collection of Greek and Roman sculpture; the site of the 3rd-century AD **Baths of Diocletian**, which were the most extensive in Rome and which now hold a marvelous collection of funereal artworks; and the **Octagonal Hall**, which occupies the southwest corner of the central building.

Enjoy free time today to explore Rome at your leisure.



 This evening we will dine near the spectacular **Trevi Fountain** where it is traditional to toss a coin into the fountain to ensure a safe return to The Eternal City. Spend time at Rome's meeting place, the **Piazza di Spagna**, home of the famous **Spanish Steps**. The piazza and steps are both named in reference to a 16th century Spanish ambassador who lived here. English poet John Keats lived and died in the house to the right of the steps, which is now a memorial.

DAY 5



Monday, 11 March 2013


We will have use of a private coach and driver, while touring for the next 6 days.

Today we will travel from Rome to Florence. On the way we will stop in Siena.




Once a capital to rival Florence, Siena is Italy's prettiest medieval town, and still possesses the grandeur of the age when it was at its peak.



 Visit the **Duomo**, highlighted by distinctive striped marble columns. Our visit will include the beautiful **Piccolomini Library**, designed to house the cathedral's collection of illuminated manuscripts. The magnificent room features an unrivaled ceiling and large frescoes depicting important events in the life of Pope Pius II.




 Stroll through the narrow and winding streets of Siena to the **Piazza del Campo**, a vast and lively square in the heart of the city.


Our base for the next 2 nights will be Florence (Area), where breakfast will be provided at the hotel.



Florence is so deeply connected to the Renaissance movement in art and literature that it is often called the "Cradle of the Renaissance." A walk through the peaceful piazzas reveals the architecture and sculpture that have made this beautiful city one of the world's greatest artistic capitals.



 Stop just outside Florence and explore the **Piazzale Michelangelo**. Offering a splendid panoramic view of the city's domes and towers, this is a great location to take photos and view some of the local artists at work.

 Stop at **Piazza Goldoni**, the possible location where Helen of *All's Well that Ends Well* may have asked the Widow for directions while awaiting Bertram. If possible, we may have the opportunity to also view the building that is most likely to have been the St. Francis, where the Widow directs Helen.

 We will dine this evening in a local restaurant.

DAY 6

Tuesday, 12 March 2013

During the course of our tour we will gain from the knowledge and insight of 1 full-day local guides while we are here in Florence.



Visit the **Accademia Gallery**, where we will view Michelangelo's statuary masterpiece, *David*, and Botticelli's *Madonna and Child*.



Enjoy the **Piazza del Duomo**, where the cathedral, tower, and baptistery epitomize the traditions of Florentine art from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. After viewing the massive facade of the **Duomo**, including its enormous Dome that dominates the skyline and is a symbol of Florence itself, we make a brief visit inside to view frescoes designed by Giorgio Vasari. Upon exiting the Duomo, we will view Giotto's *Bell Tower* and the bronze doors of the *Baptistery*, designed by Ghiberti, which Michelangelo commented were worthy to be the "Gates of Paradise."



Spend time in the **Piazza della Signoria**, the political stage of Renaissance Florence and an open-air museum of sculpture.



Experience the **Uffizi Museum**, one of Italy's finest art museums, containing one of the most famous collections of paintings and sculptures in the world. Exhibitions include works by most of the acclaimed Italian artists, as well as German, Dutch, and Flemish masters. Of particular note are European paintings from the 13th to 18th centuries, which include works by da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli, Rembrandt, and Rubens.



Stroll along the **Ponte Vecchio**, the oldest of Florence's six bridges and one of the best-loved sites of Florence. Lined with numerous shops, visitors often do not realize they are on a bridge until they reach the center arches that look out over the Arno.

This evening dinner will be at the group's own expense.

DAY 7

Wednesday, 13 March 2013

Today we will travel from Padua to Florence. En route we will stop in Bologna.



Bologna is one of Italy's great historic cities. It was founded by the Etruscans and experienced a rebirth and constant growth from the medieval period to the present day. Home of the oldest university in the Western World, Bologna is also the birthplace of some of Italy's most well known food traditions.



Stroll down what must be the most architecturally elegant street in Bologna, **Via Strada Maggiore**. Stop to visit the **Basilica of San Petronio**, named after the city's patron saint. This vast basilica is Bologna's largest church. It was originally intended to be even larger, until church authorities diverted funds prior to its completion. There are 22 art-filled chapels we may visit, but the frescoes depicting heaven and hell in the *Cappella Bolognini* are particularly interesting.

Our base for the next 3 nights will be Padua (Area), where breakfast and dinner will be provided at the hotel.



The old university town of Padua in northern Italy is rich in history, art, and architecture. Its picturesque streets and piazzas charm visitors at every turn.

- 🏰 On one of our nights in Padua we see the *Church of San Luca* and the nearby canal bridge where much of the *Taming of the Shrew* takes place.

DAY 8

Thursday, 14 March 2013

This morning we will begin our touring a bit earlier.



Venice is one of the few cities in the world that can truly be described as unique. It was known as the gateway to the Orient, and during the Middle Ages became one of the most powerful city-states in the Mediterranean. Built on a series of islands connected by bridges and canals, Venice has survived all odds to become the intriguing and iconic city it is today.

The vaporetto is Venice's version of public transport, as no cars are allowed in this city on the water. While in Venice, we will each have a vaporetto pass for transportation and sightseeing.



- 🏰 Take a vaporetto ride along the **Grand Canal** past Venice's beautiful palaces and cathedrals. We will also see the **Rialto Bridge**, the oldest and most famous of the bridges that span the Grand Canal.

- 🏰 Explore the famous **Rialto Markets**, mentioned several times in the *Merchant of Venice*. We will attempt to get there early enough to see the Erberia and Pescheria, before wandering around the other stalls and merchants.



- 🎓 Stroll through the **St. Mark's Square**. Bordered by Venice's greatest historic buildings, St. Mark's Square is the main focal point of the city and the center of its water transportation system, as well as the most popular place for people watching and picture taking. Visit **St. Mark's Basilica**, featuring interior walls encrusted with spectacular gold mosaics. Our visit will also include an ascent to the *Galleries* to see the original bronze horses that once adorned the facade, as well as a stunning view of St. Mark's Square.






- 🎓 Tour the **Doge's Palace**, former residence of the rulers of Venice. We will explore the ornate and grandiose rooms of the palace, including the Grand Council chamber, featuring Tintoretto's *Paradise*, said to be the world's largest oil painting. We will walk across the famous *Bridge of Sighs* to the cells where Casanova was once imprisoned.

DAY 9

Friday, 15 March 2013

- 🏰 Our day begins at the Venetian **Arsenale**, the shipyard and former naval depot of the city, located near the Sagittary mentioned in *Othello*. Debate continues as to the actual location of the Sagittary and what it was, but some believe it is a narrow street where arrow-makers were found, and this would likely be near the Arsenale.

-  Enjoy a tour of churches and palaces built for some of the ethnic peoples that settled in Venice. Subject to schedule, we may view the Scuola di San Girgio degli Schiavari (Slavic), the Fondacio dei Turchi (Turkish), the Chiesa San Bartolomeo (German), and the Chiesa di San Giorgio dei Greci (Greek).
-  Enjoy a **Walking Tour** of the **Jewish Ghetto** and the setting of Shakespeare's play *The Merchant of Venice*. There is still a porch existing that we will see that is reputed to be the location of Shylock's Penthouse.
-  Time permitting, pass by the **Villa Foscari**, also known as La Malcontenta, which may have been Portia's residence in *The Merchant of Venice*. (visit subject to availability)


DAY 10

Saturday, 16 March 2013

Today we will travel from Padua to Milan. En route we will visit Verona.



Verona is a vibrant city that has grown to be one of the most prosperous in northern Italy. Despite its magnificent Roman center and unique palazzi, the town is still primarily known as the setting of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

-  Take a **Guided Walking Tour** highlighting the city's most important landmarks and monuments, Take a **Guided Walking Tour** highlighting the city's most important landmarks and monuments, including *Erbe and Lord's Squares*, the *Tombs of the Scaligers*, *Romeo's House*, *Castelvecchio*, *Scaliger's Bridge*, and the *Chiesa di San Pietro Incarnario*, reputed to be Juliet's parish church.



Visit the **Casa di Giulietta**, where we will see the balcony rumored to be that of Juliet, from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.



Stop at the **Scaliger Castle** in Villafranca di Verona. Built in the 12th century, this was one of the most powerful of the Scaliger castles, and possibly where Montague and Capulet were ordered by Escalus to present themselves.

We will continue to the Milan (Area), which will be our base for the next night. While here, we will enjoy breakfast and dinner at the hotel.

DAY 11

Sunday, 17 March 2013



Our rewarding and enjoyable tour comes to an end as our guide accompanies us to the airport on our final day.

TOTAL PER PERSON TOUR COSTS BASED ON NUMBER OF FULL PAYING PARTICIPANTS

What is Included:

- * Round trip airfare with a major carrier on scheduled flights and guaranteed dates
- * Airport taxes/fuel surcharges (**currently \$650 but subject to change until ticketed** usually 45 days prior to departure)
- * Accommodation in 3 star tourist class hotels (occasional 4 star or Superior 2 star) with private facilities guaranteed throughout. Rooming will be in triples and quads.
- * Continental breakfast throughout your touring program and 6 dinners
- * A Casterbridge Tour Manager/Guide to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival until departure
- * All excursions, cultural activities and (several pre-booked) admissions as per your itinerary
- * The expertise and perspective of 5 local guides during your tour
- * Transportation by private coach for airport transfers and city transfers. While in Rome, public transport will be used (and the cost included) for group sightseeing.
- * Free places in shared twin rooms for group leaders (as per number of full paying participants stated above)
- * All Taxes

This Does Not Include:

- * Lunches, beverages with meals, 2 dinners
- * Visas (if required)
- * Tips and gratuities for the guide and driver
- * Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage
- * Travel insurance - Casterbridge offers a comprehensive Travel Insurance Policy to all participants. This Policy includes **Health, Cancellation and Property** coverage and costs \$71 for those 30 years or below on tours of 6-10 days (\$102 for tours of 11 or more days) and \$112 for those aged 31 years or above on tours of 6-10 days (\$133 for tours of 11 or more days). This travel insurance is **gratis** for all free group leaders. **Each passenger must be covered by a Health Insurance policy whilst on a Casterbridge tour.**

Shepherd University - 114460G	Full Paying Participants	Free Place Entitlement	Price in USD
(a) There are no registration fees, optional excursions or adult supplements to be added.	24	2	3,313
	20	2	3,491
(b) This proposal is valid until 25 November 2012 or until 90 days (07 December 2012) before departure (whichever comes first) and this tour cannot be operated in its present format with fewer than 10 participants.	18	2	3,560
	16	2	3,668
	14	2	3,813
	12	2	4,015
	10	2	4,353

Your currency level is guaranteed up to 1 Euro = \$1.30